

Constitution of Montana -- Article X -- EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

Section 1. Educational goals and duties. (1) It is the goal of the people to establish a **system of education which will develop the full educational potential** of each person. **Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed** to each person of the state.

(2) The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.

(3) **The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools.** The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable. It **shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share** of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system.

About the School Funding Interim Commission

Senate Bill 128 created a 16-member School Funding Interim Commission for the 2015-16 Interim and each successive fifth interim. The bill requires the commission to:

- conduct a study to reassess the educational needs and costs related to the basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools;
- if necessary, recommend to the following legislature changes to the state's funding formula; and
- issue a report on the commission's findings and recommendations, including any draft legislation for amending the state school funding formula, by no later than the 15th of September preceding the next regular legislative session

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Moving forward...

Future meetings—3 more?

2-day meeting late March (T-W March 29-30?)

(Continue research; flesh out proposals)

2-day meeting late April (Th-F April 28-29?)

(Review any bill drafts; public input; revision)

1-day meeting mid-June (T or W June 21 or 22?)

(Decide on revised bill drafts and other findings
and recs for final report)

Next step possibilities

- Discuss today, focusing and clarifying ideas from brainstorming as commission
- Subcommittees to focus and clarify (conf calls in Feb; cost; staff workload; awkward?)
- Other ideas???